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PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: H. Robert Horvitz et al. Art Unit: Not yet assigned
Serial No.: 09/888,243 Examiner: Not yet assigned
Filed: June 22, 2001 Customer No.: 21559
Title: RELATEDNESS OF HUMAN INTERLEUKIN-1 β CONVERTASE GENE TO A *C. ELEGANS* CELL DEATH GENE, INHIBITORY PORTIONS OF THESE GENES AND USES THEREFOR

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, kindly amend the application as follows.

In the specification:

Replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 11-15, with the following amended paragraph that has been re-written in clean form.

This application is a continuation of and claims priority from USSN 09/083,662, filed May 22, 1998; which is a continuation of USSN 08/394,189, filed February 24, 1995, which is a continuation-in-part of USSN 08/282,211, filed July 11, 1994; which is a divisional of 07/984,182, filed November 20, 1992, now abandoned; which is a continuation-in-part of USSN 07/897,788, filed June 12, 1992, now abandoned. The teachings of USSN 07/897,788 are incorporated by reference.